

Serial No. 10/669,040
Amdt. dated February 22, 2007
Reply to Office action of May 7, 2007

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 22, 2007. Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner noted that the specification includes the characters "???" on page 25, line 16. The specification has been amended as noted above to delete these characters.

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner noted an objection to claim 1, and suggests that the word "each" be replaced with "the at least one" in two places. Claim 1 has been cancelled. However, the language of claim 1 has been incorporated into claims 15 and 24 as discussed below, and the Examiner's suggestions have been incorporated into those claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 18-21 were rejected as obvious over Grimwood et al. in view of Yang et al.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-3 and 18-19 have been amended to depend from a claim which the Examiner has deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form (claim 24). Claims 20-21 depend from claim 19. Claims 19-21 also include amendments intended to conform their language to that of the rewritten claim 24. Therefore, claims 2-3 and 18-21 should be allowable.

Claims 4-5, 10 and 17 were rejected as obvious over Grimwood and Yang and further in view of Agrawal et al.

Claims 4, 10 and 17 have been amended to depend from a claim

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which the Examiner has deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form (claim 24). Claim 5 has been canceled. Therefore, claims 4, 10 and 17 should be allowable.

Claims 6-9 and 22 were rejected as obvious over Grimwood, Yang and Agrawal and further in view of Shilling.

Claims 6-9 and 22 have been amended to depend from a claim which the Examiner has deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form (claim 24). Claims 6-9 also include amendments intended to conform their language to that of the rewritten claim 24. Therefore, claims 6-9 and 22 should be allowable.

Claims 11-14 and 28-30 were rejected as obvious over Grimwood, Yang and Agrawal and further in view of Doyle.

Claims 11, 13 and 28-30 have been cancelled. Claims 12 and 14 have been amended to depend from a claim which the Examiner has deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form (claim 24). Therefore, claims 12 and 14 should be allowable.

Claim 23 was rejected as obvious over Grimwood and Yang and further in view of Fiedler et al.

Claim 23 has been amended to depend from a claim which the Examiner has deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form (claim 24), and also to conform its language to that of the rewritten claim 24. Therefore, claim 23 should be allowable.

Rewritten in Independent Form

In the Examiner's paragraph 10, it is noted that claims 15, 16 and 24-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

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In response, claims 15 and 24 have been rewritten in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion -

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its base claim (1) and intervening claims (none).

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its base claim (1) and intervening claims (none).

Claim 16 depends from the amended claim 15, and claims 25-27 depend from the amended claim 24; therefore, these claims should be allowable as originally written.

All of the claims presently in the application are believed to be patentably distinct with respect to the cited art and to otherwise be in proper form for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 7, 2007

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